

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 014608 TOSEC 010048

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:DPW

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S :RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 014608 TOSEC 010048

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, US, JO

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: ASAD-HUSSEIN DISCUSSION RE
LEBANON (S/S NO. 7601314)

FROM ATHERTON

REF: AMMAN 305

1. KING HUSSEIN IS GOING TO DAMASCUS JANUARY 21 TO DIS-
CUSS LEBANON WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, AND ASKED WHETHER YOU
HAD SOME THOUGHTS OR IDEAS HE COULD BEAR IN MIND DURING
THE MEETING. AMONG OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, HUSSEIN IS WORRIED
ABOUT THE REPORTED MOVEMENT OF FEDAYEEN FORCES (HE SAID
SAIQA) FROM SYRIA INTO LE0ANON, -- BUT MENTIONED TO
PICKERING THE POSSIBILITY OF INCURSIONS OF PLA AND SYRIAN
REGULARS. HE INTENDS TO TRY TO BE A MODERATING INFLUENCE
ON THE SYRIANS, AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT
ON THEIR PART.

2. SINCE HUSSEIN ALREADY INTENDS TAKING A LINE HELPFUL TO
OUR INTERESTS, WE SUGGEST HAVING AMBASSADOR PICKERING

SECRET

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ENCOURAGE THE KING TO CONCENTRATE ESPECIALLY ON THE DANGER

THAT A SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF PLA-TYPE UNITS INTO LEBANON
COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE ISRAELIS AS A STEP TOWARDS

OUTRIGHT SYRIAN INTERVENTION.

3. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR APPROVAL IS A PROPOSED MESSAGE
INSTRUCTING PICKERING TO STRESS THIS POINT WITH THE KING:

BEGIN TEXT:

TO: AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO: IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, CAIRO IMMEDIATE, DAMASCUS
IMMEDIATE, TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
EXDIS
EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, US, JO
SUBJECT: ASAD-HUSSEIN DISCUSSION
REF: AMMAN 305
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

PLEASE TELL KING HUSSEIN THAT I APPRECIATED HIS INVITATION
TO GIVE HIM MY THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS PLANNED MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ASAD. I WOULD SAY THAT THE COUNSELS OF RE-
STRAINT AND MODERATION HE PLANS TO COMMUNICATE TO ASAD AND
THE SYRIANS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR COMMON INTERESTS, FOR I
SHARE HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN
LEBANON.

YOU MAY TELL HUSSEIN THAT, IN MY JUDGMENT, SYRIA CAN
AFFECT THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS IN LEBANON IN SIGNIFI-
CANT WAYS EITHER POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY. THIS IS WHY
THE REPORTED MOVEMENT OF PLA UNITS INTO LEBANON IS A
MATTER OF CONCERN. THE ISRAELIS ARE CERTAIN TO DETECT
THEM, AND POSSIBLY INTERPRET THIS AS STEP TOWARD OUTRIGHT
SYRIAN INTERVENTION.

BECAUSE OF THE DANGERS, I HOPE THAT HUSSEIN WILL ENCOURAGE
THE SYRIANS TO CONTROL THE FEDAYEEN WITH WHOM THEY HAVE
INFLUENCE AND REFRAIN FROM ALLOWING FUTURE PLA OR SIMILAR
UNITS TO ENTER LEBANON.

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IN ADDITION, YOU MAY TELL HUSSEIN FOR HIS VERY CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION THAT IN PAST 24 HOURS WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR
AMBASSADORS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS
ABOUT DANGERS OF UNILATERAL INTERVENTION. WITH SYRIANS,
WE HAVE ALSO COMMENDED THEIR EFFORTS AT MEDIATION LOOKING
TOWARD POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE BY ALL RPT
ALL CONCERNED LEBANESE FACTIONS, AND HAVE REAFFIRMED OUR

SUPPORT FOR KARAME.

FINALLY, YOU MAY TELL HIM WE STRONGLY OPPOSE PARTITION AND BELIEVE ANYTHING HUSSEIN CAN DO TO PERSUADE CHRISTIAN MILITANTS IN LEBANON THAT THEIR BEST INTERESTS LIE IN REACHING A NEGOTIATED ACCOMMODATION THAT RECOGNIZES NEED FOR SOME COMPROMISE WITH MOSLEMS, WHILE SAFEGUARDING LONG RUN SECURITY OF THEIR COMMUNITY, WOULD BE HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN OF STABILITY AND SANITY. END MESSAGE.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE THE ABOVE MESSAGE.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED: NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN

APPROVED: NEA:ALATERTONJR.

S/S CLEARANCE:KUCHEL

SISCO

SECRET

NNN

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04 MAY 2006

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